



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*The Mission of  
the Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control is to  
provide the highest  
level of safety, and  
to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
toxic harm.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

## FACT SHEET January 2008

# Final Phase of Cleanup Activities at S&W Atlas Iron and Metal Company, Inc.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is issuing this fact sheet to provide the community with information on the Final Phase of Cleanup Activities at S&W Atlas Iron and Metal Company, Inc. (Atlas) located at 10019 South Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California. The work is expected to begin in January or February 2008 and continue until April or May 2008. The Final Phase of cleanup activities will place a permanent cover over the excavated area where contaminated soil and waste piles were previously removed under United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) oversight. The work will be performed under a Remedial Action Workplan (RAW), which was submitted to DTSC as part of an anticipated settlement of a Los Angeles Superior Court case filed by DTSC regarding the hazardous waste piles that were formerly located at the Atlas facility.

### **This fact sheet provides a brief summary of:**

- Why Final Phase of Cleanup Is Necessary
- Site Location and History
- Previous Cleanup Activities
- Proposed Final Phase Plan
- Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

### **Why Final Phase of Cleanup is Necessary**

There is no immediate health risk during the proposed final phase of cleanup, because the contaminated soil which was stored at the site has already been removed. The final phase of cleanup is necessary in order to prevent the small amount of soil contamination that will be left in place at the site from affecting the surrounding area.

## Site Location and History

This 3-acre site, located at 10019 South Alameda Street in the City of Los Angeles, is bordered by an industrial facility to the north, Jordan High School to the west, South Alameda Street and the Alameda Corridor Railroad to the east, and a parking lot for the school to the south.

Operating since 1949, Atlas purchases and prepares metals such as iron, steel, aluminum, copper, lead and zinc for reuse and recycling. In 2003, DTSC found hazardous waste in two piles in the north-west corner of the Atlas property. In June 2004, DTSC sued Atlas and its President for an injunction requiring them to remove the piles, and for other relief. Owners of the property on which the Atlas business is located were also named in the lawsuit.



*Area at S&W Atlas Iron & Metal Company, Inc. after soil piles removal, which will be covered with concrete.*

## Previous Clean up Activities

In March and April 2004, DTSC collected soil samples from Jordan High School baseball field located adjacent to Atlas property. The soil samples indicated that there was lead and arsenic contamination along the eastern and northern fence lines of the field. In July of 2004, DTSC removed that contamination from the field.

In 2006, while DTSC's Los Angeles Superior Court lawsuit was pending, Atlas removed and disposed of the hazardous waste piles on its property. The cleanup was overseen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Sampling of the soil in the former location of the larger pile showed the presence of some residual metals contamination, principally lead. The final phase of cleanup activities is designed to prevent that residual contamination from affecting the surrounding environment.

Currently the excavated area is covered by water resistant tarpaulins to prevent migration of any contamination from the facility as an interim measure before final clean up activities take place.

## Proposed Final Phase Plan

The final phase of cleanup is planned for January 2008, and the work is expected to continue until April 2008. The work will consist of the following:

- Surveying of the Atlas/Jordan property lines
- Installation of a temporary ten-foot high chain link fence covered with a woven screen at the Atlas/Jordan boundary
- Demolition of the existing wall that separates the Atlas site from the Jordan High School baseball field.
- Preparation, backfill, and compaction of clean soil and gravel
- Grading and repaving the area with reinforced concrete
- Construction of a new ten-foot high wall at the Atlas/Jordan border

The area where the contaminated soil was removed will be compacted and backfilled with certified clean imported soil. Following the installation of a temporary fence, the existing concrete wall and footing at the west end of the property will be demolished using a backhoe and concrete breaker. The work area will then be repaved with a reinforced concrete cap. In addition, a new 10-foot high masonry wall will be built along the edge of the capped area along the entire westerly boundary of the Atlas site. Upon completion of the work, the contractor will remove the temporary chain link fence.

## Safety and Dust Control during Cleanup

Some of the actions the contractor will take to ensure safety of the public and to minimize dust include:

- Maintaining a cover on existing soils
- Providing upwind fencing to prevent material movement
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Consistently sweeping excess material from the work area
- Emptying loader buckets close to the truck to prevent dust
- Not conducting loading activities during high wind conditions (+25 mph).
- On-site monitoring of dust release

## Where to Find Site Documents

The RAW for the Atlas Iron & Metal, Inc. site is available at the following locations:

*Department of Toxic Substances Control*  
Regional Records Office

1011 North Grandview Avenue

Glendale, CA 91201

Contact: Regional File Coordinators

Phone: (818) 551-2800

Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

*Alma Reaves Woods-Watts Branch Library*

10205 Compton Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90002

(323) 789-2850

Hours: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday

Noon – 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday

The documents are also available online at the Department of Toxic Substances Control web site: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/>.

**Who to Contact for Information**

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Susan Callery

DTSC Public Participation Specialist

(818) 551-2875 or toll free 1-866-495-5651,  
press option 3

[scallery@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:scallery@dtsc.ca.gov)

Nirupma Suryavanshi

DTSC Project Manager

(714) 484-5375

[nsuryava@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:nsuryava@dtsc.ca.gov)

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con:

Jeanne Garcia, Funcionario de Información Pública del DTSC, al (818) 551-2176.

For Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia

DTSC Public Information Officer

(818) 551-2176

[jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

*Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals:*

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD), or by calling Susan Callery, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846 or toll free 1-866-495-5651 and press option 3.